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skilfully misrepresented as arrogant, offensive and dangerous. A very small spark may fire a magazine, and a slight misunderstanding may easily grow into an opportunity for striking the first blow. Mutual rivalry and suspicion keep each nation upon the alert. France and Germany preserve an armed truce because of that bloody and bitter badge, Alsace-Lorraine; in the Balkan Peninsula Russia and Austria glower at each other across the Carpathians; England and Russia challenge and threaten one another across Afghanistan; in the Baltic provinces there is a continual strife between pannslavism and pan-germanism; England and France cannot agree upon the Egyptian occupation; while all would like to fall upon "the sick man of the Orient" and rob Turkey of whatever is most available. By way of diversion and possible aggrandizement the great powers are engaged just now in a general scramble for all the unclaimed territory of Africa and the isles of the sea. By mutual understanding they plunder the uncivilized races, without quarrelling among themselves. Whether their bloody occupation of these outlying regions can be called an advance of Christian civilization may well be doubted. The vices and crimes introduced by European soldiers quickly degrade the weaker races with whom they come in contact. Too often, again, brute force and superior arms have laid waste an entire country. *Ubi solitudinem faciunt, pacem appellant.* Yet, the reports sent home invariably represent the progress of arts and arms as grand and glorious.

One of the most hopeful and significant of recent events, was the proposition introduced in the German Parliament by Herr Liebknecht that Alsace-Lorraine be created an independent and neutral province. The German socialist used strong language and stated that he held *war to be a crime*, and believed that those who committed this crime ought to be punished. He farther declared that by advocating this opinion he considered himself to be a better patriot than those who opposed him. Of course he represents a very small minority; yet it marks the beginning of a higher and better era in international politics when even one man dares utter such sentiments before the assembled deputies of a great empire.

Undoubtedly the independence and neutrality of Alsace-Lorraine would be a most happy solution of a much-vexed question. Nor is it so impracticable as it may at first appear. I notice that the same opinion is advanced by the able and learned Count Kamarowsky of the University of Moscow, who is one of the foremost advocates of peace, and who proposes that if Alsace-Lorraine does not wish to stand alone, it might easily be added to Switzerland, under the same conditions of independence and neutrality. The lesser powers of Europe to-day exert an incalculable influence for good, by keeping apart the greater warlike powers and by lessening the annoyances and softening the friction between the belligerent nations. It would be well if all the disputed provinces between the great powers could thus be neutralized and their independence granted by a congress of nations.

Of course, the wisest and best scheme is that which contemplates some form of international arbitration, and this is the plan which is undoubtedly growing in public favor. Such a congress of the various leagues of peace and liberty as was held in Neuchatel last fall is full of promise for the future. In every great city the principles of arbitration are being discussed and agitated. Gradually the workingmen are discovering where their true interests lie, not in fratri-

dal strife but in international justice and peace. Thus, the rank and file of the enormous standing arms are becoming imbued with the broad principles of humanity, and in the same degree are made averse to warfare and senseless military service. As soon as the masses can organize and make their wishes known and their power felt in the legislatures of the Continent the warriors of the world will discover that their day of glory is destined to pass by. From all that I can learn from many sources, the Italians are now working most actively for peace. In April a grand congress will be held at Rome to put into practical form the best means of establishing international tribunals of peace, of reducing the immense standing armies of Europe, and of creating a more intelligent public sentiment upon the all-important subject of peace and arbitration. In this direction we may look for the highest and most beneficent results.

PARIS, 1889.

#### PROGRESSIVE STATESMEN.

Considering that ex-Secretary-of-State Bayard has been a life-long member of the party under whose auspices all the foreign wars of the Republic have been prosecuted, and that he descends from a historic family of the same political predilections, his recently announced Peace Policy, as authorizedly defined in *The Baltimore Sun*, is particularly, and to the philanthropist most promisingly significant. It reflects more honor upon his name in his retirement from office, incident to the defeat of his party, infinitely more than would have been secured had his continuance in office been assured and the noble sentiments had remained unsaid. And redoubled is the gratification when we connectedly consider the pacificatory and conciliatory spirit being manifested by the Shermans, of the opposite party — John, in the Senate, working to establish a commercial union of all the nations of the Americas, including Canada; and Gen. William T., the first of the military class now living, insisting upon so directing domestic legislation as to soften down and at last eradicate the hatreds and asperities that have survived the armed conflict of the sections. And while this could not well be more from a moral stand-point of consideration than it is — the assertion and vindication of the Christ-Spirit, in national conduct, which has been practically ignored through all the past — it rises to the highest wisdom of Progressive Statesmanship. — *The Universal Republic.*

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The talented actor Edwin Booth, said to be much superior to his class in moral character, fell in partial paralysis on a stage before a large audience at Rochester, N. Y., on account of his use of tobacco. He is said to have smoked sixteen cigars a day and a pipe somewhat! He has partially recovered and promises to moderate smoking. How much better to abstain!

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The extreme solicitude to avoid the calamities of war by the aid of peaceful congresses and impartial mediation, is, on the whole, the strongest evidence, stronger than that afforded by the progress of science and art, of our boasted advance in civilization.—*W. H. Prescott, Conquest of Mexico, page 35.*